

## **FAEP Conference at the Capital**

### **Field Trips & Field Training**

The 2017 FAEP Conference at the Capital's field trip and training opportunities will allow you to explore many of the unique natural features of North Florida. All of the field trips will include an instructional component to accent one or more of the conference topics presented at the Sheraton Four Points.

Field trips and training will be during the afternoon on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. They all begin at 12:30 and have various end times. All end times include travel back to the Four Points Sheraton. They will be guided, and include transportation (optional) and lunch.

Space is limited, so register today!

### **Pre-Conference Event: Cascades Park Gasification Plant Superfund Site**

Capacity: Unlimited!!

Registration Fee: \$30/person

Time: Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Join us at the City of Tallahassee's Cascades Park, a 24-acre dual-purpose park that has become the social center for the community. The Park was once home to a waterfall that influenced locating the Capital in Tallahassee. The Park also hosts the State's Prime Meridian Marker, Florida's land surveying foundation point. Today, this Nationally Registered Historic Place is an example of successful coal-tar remediation, stormwater management, and landfill redevelopment. Historical uses at the Park included a manufactured gas plant that produced coal tar as a byproduct and a landfill for incinerator ash, among other things. Remediation of this EPA Superfund site began around 2005 and focused on the excavation of contaminated soil and creek sediment, capping the landfill, and monitoring contaminated groundwater. Redevelopment of the site included important stormwater features such as connected ponds and a restored streambed with native Florida riparian landscaping. The stormwater facilities addressed historical flooding issues in the area. The Park opened in 2014 and features 2.3 miles of walking and biking trails, greenspace, water fountains, play grounds, and the outdoor Capital City Amphitheater. Despite its success, the City is still working with the EPA to close this remediation site. Our guides for this walking tour have deep knowledge of the site history, clean up, and regulatory hurdles that they will share.



The walking tour ends at the former City Electric Building, the gasification plant building that is a trendy new restaurant and Park amenity called The Edison. Enjoy networking and hors d'oeuvres. One drink ticket will be provided. One highlight of the evening at The Edison will be the “Presenter Tips” offered by professional speaking coach, John Warren, from PowerSpeaking. In this brief but entertaining session, Warren will offer tips for presenters and moderators that will be informative and easy to incorporate into the following conference days. More information about the park can be found at [www.discovercascades.com](http://www.discovercascades.com)



## **Paddle Tour of the Wacissa River**

Capacity: 20

Registration Fee: \$15/person

Time: Friday, September 15, 2017, 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

What to Bring: towel, bathing suit and waterproof camera or dry bag

Grab a paddle and kayak or canoe along the beautiful Wacissa River within the FWC's Aucilla Wildlife Management Area. There is no experience required. We'll visit several springs, including Little Blue Spring, and Cassidy Spring, and have an opportunity to take a dip in Big Blue Spring. The Wacissa River is part of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail and is well known for its diverse vegetation and large concentration of aquatic birds including prothonotary and yellow-throated warbler, black-crowned night heron, yellow-crowned night heron, nesting osprey, limpkin, and purple gallinule. This paddle will be guided by experts familiar with the hydrology and birds of the Wildlife Management Area who will provide instruction along the way. More information about the river can be found at [www.srwmd.org/DocumentCenter/View/9366](http://www.srwmd.org/DocumentCenter/View/9366) and about recreation on the river at [www.daytriptallahassee.wordpress.com/2012/04/03/wacissa-river-and-big-blue](http://www.daytriptallahassee.wordpress.com/2012/04/03/wacissa-river-and-big-blue)



## **Wakulla Springs River Boat Tour & Spring Restoration Discussion**

Capacity: 20

Registration Fee: \$15/person

Time: Friday, September 15, 2017, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

What to Bring: bathing suit and towel (optional), camera, money for ice cream!

Come see one of the largest and deepest freshwater springs in the world just south of Tallahassee. Visitors from all over the world come to see this beautiful natural and historic park. Learn about the functioning of the spring and underground caves that surface at the park, but extend for miles in all directions. The tour will include a river boat tour on the Wakulla River, which is closed to public boating and therefore offers undisturbed wildlife. The boat tour guide will be sharing knowledge of the local ecology and history. Be sure to bring your camera as the wildlife is abundant. Swimming is popular at the beach if you would like to take a dip and be sure to tour the lodge to learn about the history of the park including the stories of Old Joe and The Creature from the Black Lagoon. Ice cream at the old soda fountain is on your own. More information on the park can be found at [www.floridastateparks.org/park/Wakulla-Springs](http://www.floridastateparks.org/park/Wakulla-Springs)



## Leon Sinks Geologic Area Sinkhole and Springs Walking Tour

Capacity: 20

Registration Fee: \$15/person

Time: Friday, September 15, 2017, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

What to Bring: hiking shoes, camera

Peer into sinkholes that connect to a network of subterranean caves and walk the 3.1 mile Sinkhole Trail Loop through sandhills, flatwoods and a disappearing creek boardwalk.

This area in the Apalachicola National Forest has sandy soil from ancient dunes overlaying karst geology. Because of the karst features, the topography changes from flat to hilly with windows into sinkholes scattered throughout the forest. Learn about mapping and research of the unique underground streams that extend all the way to Wakulla Springs. Observe the plants and wildlife of the sandhills and sinkholes. We will be on the trail for about 2.5 hours, depending on the pace of the group, questions and discussion about the area. Additional information can be found at

[www.floridahikes.com/leon-sinks](http://www.floridahikes.com/leon-sinks)



## St Marks National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Photography

Capacity: 20

Registration Fee: \$15/person

Time: Friday, September 15, 2017, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

What to Bring: hiking shoes, camera

Led by an expert wildlife photographer, this trip will provide some basics on equipment and techniques as well as a tour to view and photograph wildlife. The refuge, established in 1931 to provide wintering habitat for migratory birds, encompasses over 70,000 acres and includes about 43 miles along the Gulf Coast. The Refuge is a Longleaf Pine Land Management Research and Demonstration Area; Globally Important Bird Area; Outstanding Florida Waters and Class 1 Air Quality area. September brings the bald eagles returning to nest, butterflies, and autumn wildflowers. On the tour you may see fresh and saltwater marshes and coastal hammocks and have opportunities to photograph bald eagles, alligators, red cockaded woodpeckers, many varieties of shorebirds butterflies, fall wildflowers and the historic lighthouse. See [www.fws.gov/refuge/st\\_marks](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/st_marks) for additional information on the refuge.



## **Fire Ecology, Land Management, Wetland Mitigation and Drone Demonstration**

Capacity: 20

Registration Fee: \$15/person

Time: Friday, September 15, 2017, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

On this field trip, we will visit the St. Marks Mitigation Bank and the Debbie Lightsey Nature Park to look at two examples of wetland mitigation projects. The St. Marks Mitigation Bank is a 1,450-acre mitigation bank providing mitigation credits for state and federally regulated wetland impacts within its approved service area. The City of Tallahassee's Debbie Lightsey Nature Park is a permittee-responsible mitigation project for wetland impacts resulting from the Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest roadway project. The projects represent two different ecological and regulatory approaches for addressing wetland mitigation requirements. At the St. Marks Mitigation Bank, a slash pine silviculture plantation is being restored back to native wet flatwoods through controlled burns, hydrologic improvements, planting of longleaf and wiregrass, and exotic species management. We will look at post fire response from the winter 2016 burn and discuss land management practices within this fire dependent ecosystem. We will have a demonstration of drone operation and use for scientific purposes. At the Debbie Lightsey Nature Park, additional wetlands are being created within the newly established park through earthwork, planting and hydrologic controls. The newly established Nature Park will provide environmental education and recreational opportunities, as well as stormwater treatment and wetland mitigation. Additional information about the mitigation bank can be found at [www.wesmitigation.com/flbanks/st-marks-mitigation-bank](http://www.wesmitigation.com/flbanks/st-marks-mitigation-bank) and information about Debbie Lightsey Nature Park can be found at [www.blueprint2000.org/debbie-lightsey-nature-park](http://www.blueprint2000.org/debbie-lightsey-nature-park)

